

ROADS ASK QUICK RATE DECISION

Urge Commerce Commission to Close Hearings This Week.

SAY CRISIS IS SERIOUS

Would Have Freight Charges Settled in Advance of Other Issues.

ANSWER EXPECTED TO-DAY

Carriers Reply to Thorne With Data as to Decrease of Earnings.

Request Likely to Be Refused.

Upon adjournment of the hearing to-night the commission dispersed without going into consultation. The Brownell application will be considered to-morrow at 10 o'clock, and it is expected that by noon the commission will announce whether it will permit the railroads to complete their case this week.

Mr. Brownell said that the request to expedite came without notice, and that it is impossible to predict the commission's answer. As the case is now progressing, all testimony will not be heard until April 20, probably later. Then there will be arguments in accordance with the practice of the commission.

While it is thought improbable that the commission will consent to close the case this week, it is possible that the commission will permit the railroads to complete their case this week.

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CENTRAL LINES HAVE LAID OFF 27,600 MEN

Reductions Since September Announced—Erie Working 18,000 Fewer.

ANOTHER DIVIDEND CUT

St. Louis and Southwestern Reduces Annual Rate From 4 to 2 Per Cent.

The total number of employees laid off since December, and the road is now manned by a force 18,000 less than at the height of the maintenance and improvement work of last summer. This latter decrease is in large part due to the nearing of completion of double tracking and improvement work that the Erie has been doing on a large scale. Decrease in business is making itself felt to such an extent, however, that slashes in the shop forces, superintendence staffs and clerical forces are in immediate prospect.

At the offices of the Delaware and Hudson it was said that as soon as the traffic stalled by storms is out of the way—inside of a week or ten days—labor reductions will have to be seriously considered.

The New Haven had no figures available on the retrenchment in labor, but it was said that the number laid off has been heavy, as the result of the decrease of \$3,000,000 in net earnings for the seven months ended January 31. The Readville shops have been particularly affected.

Another Cut in Dividends.

Additional point was given to the prevailing railroad depression in the announcement of another cut in railroad dividends. The St. Louis Southwestern, the "Cotton Belt," cut the quarterly rate on the preferred from 4 per cent. to 3 per cent. The company paid 5 per cent. in 1912 and 4 per cent. last year.

Although the Cotton Belt runs largely through agricultural territory its directors felt that the uncertainty of the business situation is so great that caution dictated the cutting of the dividend in half to 2 per cent. The company paid 5 per cent. in 1912 and 4 per cent. last year.

The St. Louis Southwestern for the six months to the end of February shows net earnings of only \$700,142, a decrease of \$931,413 from the previous year, though gross earnings were little less.

Mr. Paul showed that the company was in a position to pay a dividend of 2 per cent. for special maintenance work, but the tendency of declining earnings coupled with the unsatisfactory condition of general business, made it impossible to do so.

Thorne's Charges Denied.

Vigorous refutation of the charge by Clifford Thorne, chairman of the Iowa State Railroad Commission, who is voting the protest of Western State commissions against an advance of rates, that the railroads are making wholesale reductions of employees in order to conserve cash, was made by railroad men.

"Such a charge is most unfair," said Vice-President A. H. Harder of the Iowa State Railroad Commission, "and is wholly aside from the facts. The reduction in men employed has nothing to do with rates. It is the result of the big losses in gross receipts that the railroads have experienced."

"It is a mistaken idea that wholesale cuts in the number of men employed have been made by this road at any one time, and especially recently. The reduction of 27,600 men since September has been a gradual thing, from month to month."

"We are not going to lay off any more men than we have to. It is difficult to train men to permit of dismissing them unless absolutely compelled to."

General Manager A. J. Stone of the Erie said:

"While we are anxiously hoping for an increase in rates the retrenchment in progress is due to quiet business. We have not cut down our train service, and we have not cut down our passenger service. We have cut down our maintenance work, but we have not cut down our train service."

Earnings Reports Bad.

Railroad earnings for February continued to show decreases in gross and net. The Erie showed a decrease of \$420,000 in gross, but by retrenchment cut down expenses to show a gain of \$117,646 in net. For the eight months to the end of February gross was \$1,946,104 and net decreased \$127,717.

The Reading, the railway alone, not considering the enormous decreases in the earnings of the coal company, showed a decrease of \$745,761 in gross and \$651,123 in net on a gross business amounting to \$2,295,109. For the eight months to the end of February the decreases are \$2,207,423 in gross and \$3,326,959 in net for the railway alone.

LAST CHANGE IN "LEAK" CASE.

Federal Grand Jury Delays Case of "Tribune" Men Until April 7.

George Burdick and William L. Curtin, members of the staff of the New York Tribune, who were fined \$500 each by Judge Hand in the United States District Court recently for refusing to reveal sources of information about customs fraud cases, will get a final chance to purge themselves of contempt if they answer to the grand jury on that date the fines will be remitted. If they refuse, Judge Hand may send them to jail until they agree to tell whether a government agent gave them the information about the customs fraud cases.

TWO HEAD AS BLACKMAILERS.

Ex-Butler and Wife Must Answer Charge of Dr. Van der Pool.

Joan Lolson and Louise, his wife, who live at 317 West Thirtieth street, were held in \$2,000 bail each by Magistrate Nolan in the Yorkville police court yesterday for examination Thursday on a charge of extortion.

The complaint was made by Dr. John Van der Pool of 56 West Fifty-second street. Lolson used to work for the doctor as a butler, but was discharged for impudence. The physician charged the ex-butler and his wife with demanding \$1,400, with the threat that if they did not get the money they would make public some things that would injure the physician's reputation.

Dr. Van der Pool said in court that the ex-butler and his wife could not truthfully tell anything that would injure him.

STRICTER VIEW ON MANN ACT.

U. S. Judge Dooling Says "Commercialized Vice" Must Be Proved.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 30.—Federal Judge Dooling intimated to-day that he did not intend to stretch the Mann white slave act to cover cases where "commercialized vice" could not be proved. This view is significant, as the Mann act and Digs cases were to have come before Judge Dooling, but he refused to try them because of his friendship for Caminetti. There was no "commercialization" in the cases of Caminetti and Digs.

Speaking in answer to questions showing responsibility, asserts Governor.

"ASSEMBLY ACTS ILLEGAL"

Secretly Raised Republicans' Salaries and Made New Jobs, He Alleges.

ALBANY, March 30.—Gov. Glynn said to-night that President Wilson's declaration that his tongue was the mouthpiece of the Wilson Administration and not Dudley Field Malone's rendered it unnecessary for him to comment on Collector Malone's statements on the Governor's recent appointments.

Instead Gov. Glynn issued a statement answering the interview of Speaker Thaddeus C. Sweet, declaring that the Republican Assembly was not responsible for the coming extra session. Gov. Glynn said:

"It is significant that Speaker Sweet carefully avoided all reference to the facts contained in my previous statement."

"He takes care to explain how the Assembly waited fifteen hours while it believed it was hopelessly deadlocked, but he has neglected to explain why it hurriedly adjourned when it perceived that the deadlock was about to be broken."

"There is nothing strange for a Legislature to wait fifteen hours after the time set for adjournment if it is a strange thing for a deadlocked Legislature to adjourn on fifteen seconds notice."

"Mr. Sweet's statement is nothing more nor less than an admission that the charges which I made against the Assembly are true."

Charges Sweet With Evason.

"I charged that the Assembly refused to confer on the supply bill because the chairman of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee admitted it had no intention of passing any appropriation bill."

"Mr. Sweet pointedly evades this charge. I further charged that Mr. Sweet was standing in the Senate Chamber when the Senate passed an appropriation of \$17,000 less than the Assembly's appropriation bill, that Mr. Sweet had had no part in the Assembly and meeting the evidence of the Senate to compromise and save the State the expense of an extra session. Mr. Sweet denied these charges. The Assembly immediately adjourned."

"Mr. Sweet has chosen to pass over these charges in silence. His silence leads me to conclude that Mr. Sweet knows that my statement can be proved by the entry in the Assembly Journal, which shows that the Senate bill was received before the Assembly adjourned."

"Even in the statement which Mr. Sweet has thought it safe to speak in his statement he is misinformed."

"He declares that a committee from the Assembly waited upon me early in the evening to notify me that the Assembly was ready to adjourn. He states that this committee was denied access to me by my secretary, although I was in the Executive Chamber in conference over appointments."

"As a matter of fact, when the Assembly committee called on me I was at the Executive Mansion, taking dinner with William Church Osborn. I had been in the Executive Chamber from the evening of the 27th until 7:30 in the evening. I took an hour for my dinner and returned to the Executive Chamber in order to call on the Assembly committee, which must have known that I was not there when it called, made no further attempt to see me."

Blame for the Extra Session.

"This, however, is unimportant. The important matter is to fix definitely the blame for the extra session, which will cost at least \$100,000, which was absolutely unnecessary."

"Experts from the Comptroller's office said that the Assembly bill, which Speaker Sweet called 'economical' and 'wasteful' in many respects, was a waste of money."

"True, it abolished two departments, but these departments happened to be under the direction of Democrats. The way to abolish departments is by proper and deliberate repeal legislation rather than by denying appropriations, which the Legislature is by law required to make."

"Furthermore, the Assembly bill showed a decrease of about \$200,000 because it took for other uses what the Assembly had previously taken for the maintenance of prison industries. It made a further showing of economy by taking \$572,000 away from the State hospitals in the appropriation for the previous year, and then gave this \$572,000 back to the hospitals in the supply bill."

"By these dubious and improper means the Assembly bill on its face showed a reduction over previous bills, but under the cloak of economy the Assembly put into its bill many unnecessary items."

Made Increases Under Cover.

"I am informed that under cover of lump sum appropriations, the Assembly bill increased the salaries of many Republican office holders and created positions which Republican friends might find illegal on the one hand, the Assembly bill was extravagant on the other."

"Furthermore, the full hypocrisy of the Assembly bill is disclosed by the statements of heads of departments. According to their statements they went to the Assembly and protested that the Assembly's appropriation bill would seriously cripple their departments."

"The Assembly leaders admitted this fact and suggested that the Senate should take the responsibility for putting these departments on their feet. After this was done, said the Assembly leaders, the Assembly would be hard to convince of their policy than this. The Assembly clung to its pretence of economy and insisted that all responsibility for increases should be borne by the Senate."

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WYERHAUSER GAINS A LITTLE.

Lumberman's Great Age, However, Makes Recovery Doubtful.

PARADISE, Cal., March 30.—Frederick Weyerhaeuser, the lumber man, who has been battling for his life at his home in Oak Knoll, was reported late this evening to be slightly improved.

Throughout the night his life was preserved only by the utmost efforts of the attending physicians. Dr. Walter N. Chols reported that a statement issued to-night, although a slight improvement was shown in Mr. Weyerhaeuser's condition there was no certainty that recovery was in sight.

All relatives of Mr. Weyerhaeuser are believed to have arrived in the city. The advanced age of the patient is the primary cause of the doctors' fears.

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Weather Bureau at Albany Issues Warning Based on Rain.

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The Hudson at 9 o'clock was 12 feet 4 inches above normal.

The navigation companies have posted orders to the first trip of the Albany and their steamers from the Troy and Albany landings because of the rainfall and the warning of continued flood conditions.

MISS TYLER MAY GET JOB BACK.

Wilson Will Help Her If Law Permits.

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Tyler, that he would restore to her her \$500 a year post office job at Courtland, Va., if he can find some legal way to do so.

Miss Tyler this afternoon told the President that there had been no complaint about her work.

"But they wanted the job for a man who had a wife," she added naively, "and so I had to go."

GLYNN SAYS SWEET ADMITS HIS CHARGES

Speaker in Answer Evades Questions Showing Responsibility, Asserts Governor.

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There are two kinds of unproductive space

One kind of unproductive space is that which, like the bone in a steak, is a necessary part of space in many buildings, and must, of course, be paid for.

This is largely obviated in the Equitable Building by what is probably the most efficient and economical distribution of space ever planned.

The other kind of unproductive space is that which a tenant sometimes leases owing to an error of judgment as to his exact requirements.

And to provide against this, we maintain a corps of Efficiency Engineers who will give the benefit of their knowledge to whoever chooses to solicit it.

Leases now being made from May 1, 1915. The building, however, is due to be completed 2 or 3 months ahead of that date.

Equitable Building
Temporary Office, 27 Pine Street

ARTHUR H. HAHLO & CO.
569 Fifth Avenue

Seven New Etchings by ZORN